

## Latest Information on Affordable Care Act Enrollment

### ENROLLMENT COMPLETION and PAYMENT EXTENSION

For all of the people who have been on the Washington Healthplanfinder trying to get error codes resolved, the exchange announced a bit of a reprieve. Customers who have been stuck at some point in the enrollment process will have until Jan. 15, 2014 to get the problem resolved and make the first payment to get coverage that is retroactive to Jan. 1, 2014. The extra time should take some pressure off frustrated customers and off call-center and other staff who have been overwhelmed with calls.

The Health Benefit Exchange press release can be found here:

<http://www.wahbexchange.org/news-resources/press-room/press-releases/wa-dec-23-solution-customers>.

I posted an updated "save the date" graphic to the Coverage is Here Facebook page, with a link to the exchange's press release. You can share out the graphic from [www.facebook.com/coverageishere](http://www.facebook.com/coverageishere).

### SMALL BUSINESS TAX CREDIT EXTENDED

Because Washington state only has the SHOP (Small business Health Options Program) in two counties (Clark and Cowlitz), the U.S. Treasury Department announced that it will be extending the existing Small Business Health Care Tax Credit in those counties with no SHOP option. Businesses may be eligible to get a tax credit of up to 50 percent on the health insurance premiums they pay for employee coverage if they:

- have fewer than 25 full-time equivalent employees,
- pay an average wage of less than \$50,000 a year, and
- pay at least half of employee health insurance premiums

A fact sheet from the U.S. Treasury Department is attached.

Press releases are below:

- Governor Jay Inslee: Small business health care tax credit now available in Washington counties with no SHOP plans (<http://www.governor.wa.gov/news/releases/article.aspx?id=182>)
- Office of the Insurance Commissioner: Washington small businesses to get health insurance tax credits (<http://www.insurance.wa.gov/about-oic/news-media/news-releases/2013/12-17-13.html>)

### ESTATE RECOVERY

The Health Care Authority sent out a news release this week assuring the public that they are amending their "estate recovery" rules to apply only to long-term care and related prescription and hospitalization costs for Medicaid recipients. There was some concern that the broader rules used for the past decade could negatively affect people over 55 who enrolled in Washington Apple Health under the Medicaid expansion.

Read HCA's news release, "HCA says state's recovery policy will be adjusted to protect new Medicaid enrollees," here:

[http://www.coverageishere.wa.gov/documents/HCANewsRelease\\_20130613.pdf](http://www.coverageishere.wa.gov/documents/HCANewsRelease_20130613.pdf)